

Appl. No. : 09/854,067
Filed : May 10, 2001

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to merely clarify the invention. Support for the amendment can be found at page 9, lines 14-19, page 13, lines 6-11, page 18, lines 9-18, and the Examples, for example. Claims 7-14 have been amended to clarify the invention. Claim 15 has been added. The amendment does not include new matter to the application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,226,890 (Borinson). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 1, 3-5

Claim 1 as amended herein recites a sheet-like preformed moisture-absorbing body fabricated outside the gas-tight housing in advance. This configuration is not disclosed by Borinson.

In Claim 1, a sheet-like preformed moisture-absorbing body is secured to a gas-tight housing along its surface shape. Further, the process wherein the moisture-absorbing body is fabricated outside the housing in advance renders a structural difference. That is, impurities generated during the formation of the moisture-absorbing body can be excluded prior to installation of the moisture-absorbing body in the housing, thereby effectively inhibiting degradation of the organic EL device.

In Borinson, the organic EL device has inherently a problem of degradation because the desiccant layer is formed directly on a surface of the enclosure (see Step (d) of Claim 1 of Borinson). When a melting blend is used, the degradation problem unavoidably occur even if the EL is produced without using a solvent (if a solution or solvent is used, the problem becomes more serious).

Further, in Borinson, the desiccant layer is solid material lacking any flexibility (e.g., a massive structure or tablet structure requires a support at the bottom) (see Figures 3B, 5A, for

Appl. No. : 09/854,067
Filed : May 10, 2001

example, in Boroson). When this kind of desiccant layer is used, the layer cannot be formed on a desired area in the gas-tight housing.

Thus, the claimed device is clearly distinct from that disclosed in Boroson. Claims 3-5 are dependent on Claim 1, and at least for this reason, Claims 1 and 3-5 should be allowable. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 7-14

Claim 7 as amended herein recites forming a sheet-like preformed moisture-absorbing body outside said gas-tight housing to prevent generation of impurities inside said gas-tight housing, which is generated during the formation of said preformed moisture-absorbing body. The above features are not disclosed by Boroson.

As performed in Boroson, when the preformed body is formed in the housing by using a melting mixture comprising a desiccant and a resin component, a third component (such as degradation products of the resin component) remains in the housing or enclosure.

In contrast, by forming the preformed body outside the housing in advance, a problem of degradation which can be caused not only by water but also by a third component can effectively be avoided. As a result, in the claimed method, the EL device which is free of luminance aging or growth of dark spots can be produced.

Boroson does not disclose or even suggest the above features. Claim 7 and its dependent Claims 8-14 could not be anticipated by Boroson. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection of Claim 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boroson.

As explained above, Boroson does not teach or suggest the above features. Claim 14, dependent ultimately on Claim 1, also could not be obvious. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

New Claim 15

Claim 15 has been added to further limit "without using a solvent". In Claim 15, in addition to the prefabrication of the body outside the housing, no solvent is used to form the

Appl. No. : 09/854,067
Filed : May 10, 2001

body. Thus, the problem of degradation of the device can be further inhibited. Claim 15 could not be obvious over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

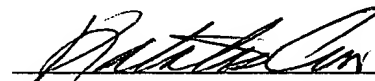
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: March 5, 2004

By:



Katsuhiro Arai

Registration No. 43,315

Agent of Record

Customer No. 20,995

(949) 760-0404

H:\DOCS\TOS\SAEGU81.001AUS\SAEGU81.001AUS.AMEND4.DOC
030504